



Processing Secondary Waste

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

The mission of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) is to neutralize and destroy the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile in a safe, environmentally sensitive and efficient manner. The safe treatment and disposal of secondary waste produced during chemical weapons destruction operations is a key element in successfully achieving the BGCAPP mission.

What is secondary waste?

Secondary wastes include items such as personal protective equipment (PPE), insulation, cleaning materials, equipment parts such as gaskets and hoses, carbon filters and decontamination solutions.

Is the liquid byproduct of the neutralization destruction process, known as hydrolysate, considered secondary waste?

No; in the context of our definition of secondary waste, hydrolysate is not considered a secondary waste.

What do you do with secondary waste?

Where it can be done safely, efficiently and in accordance with our Kentucky environmental permits, some secondary wastes will be treated on site. An example of this is the planned use of BGCAPP's metal parts treater to process certain permitted wastes, such as agent-contaminated wood pallets. However, where safety, efficiency and cost savings are better achieved by treating the secondary waste off site, BGCAPP will partner with community stakeholders and permitted commercial treatment, storage and disposal facilities to safely dispose of uncontaminated or low-level agent-contaminated wastes, such as carbon filters and personal protective equipment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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What is the advantage of sending some secondary waste for treatment off site?

By sending some of BGCAPP's secondary waste off site for treatment, we can focus our efforts on safely destroying the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile rather than having to devote precious time and taxpayer money to replicating processes and technology already available to us at experienced, proven and permitted commercial treatment and disposal facilities.

Is it safe to ship secondary waste off-site?

Community and workforce safety and environmental protection are our top priorities. Off-site shipment would not be considered if these priorities were compromised. Off-site disposition of various secondary wastes has been safely accomplished by other chemical agent disposal facilities at considerable savings to

the taxpayer, and with the acceptance of both the generating and receiving communities. The commercial facilities we select to receive BGCAPP secondary waste must have demonstrated superior safety and environmental protection records; be subject to strict regulatory oversight; possess state-of-the-art equipment and processes; and have established and active public involvement programs with their surrounding communities. Transportation contractors selected must be properly licensed hazardous waste carriers with top safety and performance records.

Will our community know when and where these secondary wastes are being sent?

Although the generation of these secondary wastes will not occur until the BGCAPP has begun destruction operations, we are bound by our environmental permits to keep our federal and state regulators advised of our plans for secondary waste processing; more importantly, we are committed to continue involving the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board and other interested members of the community in all aspect of our planning for secondary waste treatment and disposal.